

ECF UPDATE

5/1/04

COURT IMPLEMENTATION OF ECF

On November 10, 2003, the court went live on the Electronic Case Files (ECF) system and began maintaining all case documents filed on or after November 7, 2003 in electronic rather than paper form. The court also implemented General Order (G.O.) #03-3 and several revisions to the Local Bankruptcy Forms (LBFs). More information about the G.O. and LBFs is available on the court website at www.orb.uscourts.gov. Access to court documents is available on the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system.

STATUS OF ELECTRONIC FILING PILOT PROJECT

For a number of reasons, including the release of a new version (2.4) of ECF which brings valuable new functionality but requires much work by court staff, the court has had to delay electronic filing to help ensure a quality product is released.

The court's current plan is to begin electronic filing with case trustees in summer 2004. The court may also pilot electronic filing of new cases with high volume debtor's attorneys who have used ECF in other districts and can therefore provide valuable insight into implementation. The court will then proceed to train various users by type (debtor's attorneys, creditor's attorneys, etc.).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I sign up for electronic filing?

Electronic filing is not currently available. Training and registration information will be posted on the court website at the appropriate time. When it becomes available, attorneys who wish to file documents electronically must attend training at the court's offices in Portland or Eugene before they will be issued a login and password. (NOTE: See the next question for an exception to this requirement). Some training of staff will also be available.

Do I have to attend training if I'm already using ECF in another district?

You will not need to attend in-person training. The court will design a process whereby you can demonstrate your proficiency with the ECF system and your familiarity with District of Oregon administrative procedures, and then be issued a login and password.

Why is electronic filing taking so long?

The court wants to provide a smooth transition to electronic filing for attorneys, trustees, and their staff. During its internal implementation, the court gained valuable insight on how to improve ECF to make it work better for both court staff and electronic filers, and court staff have

been busy making changes to ECF. The court has also had to focus significant resources on internal operational needs and upgrades to its document scanning system and ECF. Finally, there are many tasks associated with the inauguration of electronic filing, including installing and testing the case upload and Internet credit card applications; developing training materials and cases; and finalizing administrative procedures for electronic filing.

The court will proceed to electronic filing as quickly as possible while ensuring that the ECF system, training process, and administrative procedures work well for electronic filers and the court.

What do I need to use ECF?

This question and other introductory information are covered in the ECF update posted in 2003. It's available on the court's home page (www.orb.uscourts.gov) under "In Brief" on the right side.

I signed up for e-mail receipt of court notices and I'm having problems. Who at the court should I call?

Unfortunately, the court cannot help you. You signed up for Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing through the Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC). The BNC has helpful information on their website at www.ebnuscourts.com or you can call the BNC at 877-837-3424 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

For more information about ECF, please call: Charlene Hiss, Chief Deputy Clerk/ECF Project Manager, (503) 326-2818.